

14: Inmate NI

01

02 N- My name is N. I started the Makeright course 4 weeks ago.
Before I started I didn't know much about textiles or how to use the
machines I felt more confident mmm... with the Makeright I was
challenged with the security element and I was more focused on the
design I was happy with what I came up with because before I
didn't have enough time to finish what I wanted it to be.



FIRST sentence

03 E- So it was lack of trying? What would you have done if you had
more time?

04 N- More zips in and more on the security side of it.

05 E- So think more about the safety, yeah?

06 E- What did you make of it in general?

07 N- I found it really enjoyable. It was good. Any problems I would ask
you or Pras or the help that used to come in ehmmm, yeah, learning
something new it was good and I feel confident to do in on my own
now. I think the hardest part for me was do the zips. Yeah, too fiddly.
(laughs)



L-learning

08 E- It is, it is but you learned didn't you? So what would you change if it
was up to you? What would you make different?

09 N- I would say even though the materials were ok to use, I found the
materials were good for my bag but maybe more sustainable materials.

E- What would you say is sustainable material? What type of material?

10 N- More relevant to bags. Like water-resistant materials. Yes, basically
11 more stronger.

E- Yes. Anything else that you would change?

12 N- Maybe... a week extra.

13 E- Week extra... yes. How did it feel when you presented the project?

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15 N- I felt ...mmm.... not so much left out but I felt I didn't achieve what I
wanted to achieve to make a good presentation. I just rushed through it
and maybe some people didn't get what I was talking about or didn't
feel my bag was good enough but what's his name - S? He did a
very good presentation...



M - Maturing

16 E- He has done it before...

17 N- Or yeah?

18 E- What would you do next time - what would you change?

19 N- Keep all my work together and sort of, like, maybe write down what I want to say because when I was presenting it was just right on the spot... not rehearsed anything or...

 L-learning

20 E- You have done a lot of other art projects before you studied art as well. Have you done all the arts projects in this prison or other prisons?

 L-learning

21 N- Yes, but is a case of I have done it before so I am just there purely... just personal, just passing time because I have passed all the qualifications that a prison has to offer so I'm not doing it for the qualification I am just doing it to pass time and do some work.

22 E- What about this course? Why were you doing this one?

23 N- One - I was interested in making a bag I found that interesting... I'm glad I have done it.

24 E- Any other reasons why you are doing it ...?

25 N- I don't know. Maybe is the creative side of me that wanted to venture into something new using textiles because I never really used materials in this way so it was a challenge that I wanted to... I think when we first started Makeright course I was a bit lost where the direction was going and then I kind of go into (unclear)...


26 E- And when you were lost, how did you feel? When you were lost and then found your way?

 I- Identity

27 N- Mmm... bored that much struggle but maybe at the same time I was observing as well because I am very observant, in principle.

28 E- What skills or knowledge you already had do you think you used in this project?

29 N- Definitely my art and maths... because it's got measuring and what not. Mmm... communication skills. At the same time I think I kind of started bad because of certain things that was going on that were

 E- emplo/Entrepreneurship

maybe affecting me when I was coming.

30 E- What happened?

31 N- Just losing all my property that I had. I am just thinking what am I gonna do when I get out or what can I do while I'm in here am... but it all seems to be left to the last minute they say - oh, we can't help until the last 12 weeks but I'm going to catch 22 because I was going to be released in August because I am applying for parole but then it will ... that time to nothing.

32 E- And then that's it... (laughs). So at what point did you come here and you were suddenly more focused - what made that difference?



H-hope

33 N- I think it had to do with actually enjoying myself. Because one thing I noticed, when you enjoy yourself time passed fast and you think wow... more time and then the next day you are thinking about as soon as I get in I am going to be doing this you know what you are going to be doing and you look forward to it. It sort of like a self achievement is good for you.

34 E- Is that, would you say, related to the project you have done here? Can it be useful for the problems you were talking about or how to figure out things? Or would you say it is unrelated?

35 N- In terms of mmm... maybe rehabilitation. Maybe I could find work. I could do voluntary work, keep myself occupied but I have got an address for catch 22 and this is a stepping stone towards...



E- emplo/Entrepreneurship

36 (interruption from outside)

37 E- What other knowledge would you say you brought to the workshop?

38 N- Maybe something different because I noticed with everyone's design everyone has got their unique design so maybe mine had some impact or influence while someone is in there.



C-collaboration~

39 E- Originality, that is personal to you... everyone has different ideas. You said you have done courses in prison. What were those? Was it painting? What else you have done?

40 N- I have done images and software. I thought that course was too short, for someone that needs to learn Photoshop. I know how to use

Photoshop so for me was passing the time but at the same time I spoke to Louisa and she wants me to come and peer mentor because I have done a peer mentor course which is a pathway for my career because originally I wanted to be an art teacher, but because of my criminal record I can only teach adults but even going through that avenue is still hard but I spoke to Catch 22 and i could get a job with them doing, doing youth work.

 H-hope

41 E- That's so good.

42 N- But at the same time... teaching art like em... for example I have been in a hostel and they have a big spare room and they actually paid for the art materials and they actually let me use that room to teach other residents here but it was only for a short time I was there.

43 E- That's brilliant though, isn't it? Did you enjoy that?



44 N- That's what I like. I like teaching people art specially those who are interested in art and they want to know the ins and outs of painting the stars how to do it is not just you do your thing is actually teaching the styles and techniques that would bring that persons best qualities really.

45 E- Is good news that you can probably do that with Catch 22... so what do you think about school? How was your school experience when you were young?

46 N- I had a good experience. Rather than going to the mainstream London schools I went to a boarding school in the countryside where I learned to play violin but I was only there for 3 years. The school closed down, returned back to North London and I have done my last 2 years in Islington xxx school which was good. I got qualifications.

47 E- How were both schools?

48 N- I would say the boarding school gave me the opportunity to learn certain things that I wouldn't have learned in the London schools am... it was good in a way. I can remember sometimes being lonely, being away from home and that but I made some good friends... but the London schools more of a personal experience it was venturing I become one person. Specially at the end I sort of like knew what to do I think. I think the issues with me was that I was never stable because once I left school I was always back and forth to America and then 1997 I went there to live for good and then certain things happened and I had to come back but I am glad I came back. I think if I would have stayed I don't know if I would have stayed one I would never

 L-learning
 M - Maturing

have come to prison and I was most probably doing very wrong but I had a lot of regrets and bad decisions, yeah.

49 E- How do you feel about it now ?

50 N- I think if I stick to my plan something good can come out of it because one I don't want to come back to prison regardless of how well or my circumstances are prison is not the one and is getting worse to tell you the truth is embarrassing being in prison but at the same time I have got used to it. I know how the system runs so...

 H-hope

51 E- When you say it is getting worse - what is it that it getting worse...?

52 N- Mmmm.. one, you can't get away so much like before. All the rules are changing, the food is bad, they are facing out smoking, the prizes are going up in the canteen and just, just being away for your family is tiring enough in itself.

53 E- And is getting harder... as well...

54 N- Yes, but... mmm... the last 5 or 6 times I have been in and out of prison I felt like no-one really cares about your situation. You just come, do your time and you get out and the last four times I have been released homeless and that's my kind of fear as well when I get released again.



55 E- And is that getting worse or is that something that is seems to you that you feel more comfortable this time than before ...?

56 N- No, I just feel, I just feel I'm not going to get the help at once for me to be released. My main concern is housing but at the same time I can't get housing because I have got actually no idea at all because I have one piece of ID, one piece of clothing and I have been one piece of I have got absolutely nothing and that's though the police and the hostels... I have taken action try to cover some of this.



57 E- So what is the ... compared to the times you have been out before do you feel any different - like the times you were going out from prison and come back to this situation do you think you are in the same position or...?

58 N- Not this time around from the last couple of times it just been the same the last couple of times is been short sentences like 9 weeks emmm... I have been here a year at the end of this month I have only done 2 long sentences before so is definitely different this time.

59 E- You seem to have a plan too. So you like school... would you say this project is any different from the education you have encountered before ?

 E- emplo/Entrepreneurship
 ----miscellaneous

60 N- Is different to any prison courses ammm... in which this is more advanced it doesn't feel... when I come here I don't feel like I'm in prison.

 ----miscellaneous
 W-wellbeing

61 E- Mmm... it's just a bit different. Why didn't you feel that you weren't in prison? Would you say you know what it is that makes you feel...

62 N- I think one you are not judge, is your time to be creative and you are not really... anything that has to do with prison is just left to one side you the time you are here you try to give something positive but I am trying to do something good.

63 E- Yes... exactly. It's great, it's good. What would you say that you were comfortable with and uncomfortable with in the workshop?

64 N- I didn't find anything I wasn't uncomfortable with. Obviously I had my problems with my paper and that but setting up what I want to do I didn't find any problems. I felt more confident if I had any problem I could come to you or ...

 C-collaboration~

65 E- What would you say were the most memorable moments?

66 N- I would say the pockets.

67 E- Why?

68 N- Because it was such a challenge that I ... I can do it now but I had to watch a few times to just sort of like do it ... and is all about making a bag as well ... as a whole that was good.

 G-Giving

69 E- Any more memorable moments?

70 N- I can't really think of any...

71 E- Moments that you thought that any change was happening? Personally - any change in your way of thinking or your person... any moments ...

72 N- I would say my level of creativity is skyrocketing and I feel more confident because I think I told you before art is something natural to me. I like doing it and sort of like a hobby. I have come into a mind of

 H-hope

a business sense that maybe I can get my name on the map with something I have discovered and no-one else has discovered that is something I look forward to...

73 E- Did you think about the fact that it was for a charity?

74 N- Yeah, you feel you feel appreciated and that you have done something for charity makes you feel good, yes. I think it makes me work to my best of my abilities. I am putting my name out there and put myself out there so obviously I want to do something as good as best as possible.

75 E- Yeah... great you worked with other people - what about working in this environment, what do you think of it...?

76 N- I liked my own space. I think maybe because time was so valuable I didn't have anything like social but at the same time I like to help and give advice for example when T was here mmm... I was giving him advice how to use certain things.

77 E- Is that something you enjoy? Well, you told me already you like teaching?

78 N- Yes, it comes naturally if you have knowledge that you can pass on then why not?

79 E- What about learning from others - did you learn from other people?

80 N- Yes. Maybe the way the words, the way they come up with their concepts... mine was quite interesting. (laughs)

81 E- Yes they are all interesting, they are such different ideas... obviously they come from a different persona... Who was your persona by the way?

82 N- A college student.


83 E- Why did you choose your persona, do you know?

84 N- I think because being a student myself and it is quite popular being a student and am... students they have a lot to offer and contribute so making a bag for a student rather than because I wanted to do specifically because originally it was a sports bag but then I thought that was too specific what sport is it so I kept it simple and is for a student.

 G-Giving


 G-Giving

 G-Giving

 I- Identity

85 E- If anyone asked you about this course what would you say to them? What was the most important thing? How would you summarize it...?

86 N- Well, I have told people about this course. Basically you have freedom to be creative, yes, definitely.

 I- Identity

87 E- Thank you very much. So what are you doing now - this week - in this one-day design challenge we are doing today?

88 N- A record bag. I want to make a bag without any assistance. I am thinking about the shape. I want a zip here, a zip at the top but rather than they are all safety element but I am going really deep into the design.

89 E- The shape, yeah... go on then, lets finish it today!